



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with Ohio Department of Agriculture
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USDA JUNE SURVEYS TO PROVIDE VITAL DATA ON 2011 FARM PRODUCTION

[Reynoldsburg, OH, May 2011] – USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is surveying thousands of farmers across Ohio to get a clearer indication of the production and supply of major commodities for 2011.

“In March, Ohio farmers reported that they have planted or intend to plant more acres of corn and fewer acres of soybeans. Now with much of the crop actually in the ground, we are reaching out to producers to find out what they actually planted,” said Jim Ramey, director of the NASS Ohio Field Office.

Ramey explained that NASS will gather this information through two major mid-year surveys: the June Area Survey and the June Agricultural Survey.

“For the area survey, we visit randomly selected tracts of land and interview the operators of any farm on that land. We collect information on crop acreage – including biotech crops, as well as grain stocks, livestock inventory, cash rents, land values, and value of sales,” he said.

“For the agricultural survey, which we also call the ‘crop/stocks survey,’ we contact producers by mail, phone or personal visit. We ask them to provide information on their total acreage, acres planted to specific commodities – including biotech varieties, and quantities of grains and oilseeds stored on-farm.”

This information will be a critical component of several key national reports, including the annual *Acreage* report and the quarterly *Grain Stocks* report, both to be released on June 30. Survey data also contribute to NASS’s monthly and annual *Crop Production* reports and various other crop and livestock-related publications, all of which are available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

“Especially in these uncertain economic times, farmers and the rest of the agricultural industry need timely, accurate data on the current state of U.S. agriculture,” Ramey said. “The information collected through our mid-year surveys can help producers, suppliers, traders, buyers, export customers and others to make sound and informed business decisions.”